

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed December 19, 2005. Claims 1, 3 – 10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Drawings

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are objected to because they show device and network topography inconsistent with standard industry drawings. In this regard, Applicants submit herewith replacement sheets of drawings incorporating changes to FIGs. 1 and 3. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the objections have been accommodated. However, Applicants respectfully note that printers do exist that support both network and direct connections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 3 – 10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Yacoub*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In general, Applicants amended the claims in the last response in order to highlight the improper attribution of the teachings of *Yacoub* to various features of the claims. Such attribution can clearly be seen to be improper as follows:

<u>Claimed Feature</u>	<u>Teaching of <i>Yacoub</i></u>
master printer	print server + default printer
print server	virtual printer (client application)
servant printer	printer other than default printer

As an initial matter, Applicants have used the term “print server” in accordance with its common and ordinary meaning. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that, even under the broadest reasonable interpretation standard of examination, only a “print server” can anticipate the “print server” as recited in claim 1. Since the Office Action has identified a “print server” in the teachings of *Yacoub*, Applicants respectfully assert that such a teaching is relevant to the “print server” limitation in Applicants’ claims only. However, the Office Action is improperly attributing Yacoub’s printer server to Applicants’ “master printer” limitation. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper.

Additionally, the Office Action’s attribution of a “virtual printer,” which is resident on a client device (see *Yacoub* at column 34, lines 34- 38) does not correlate with Applicants’ recited “print server.” As mentioned before, Applicants have used the term “print server” in accordance with its common and ordinary meaning, and there is no indication in the Office Action that such a term is ambiguous. As such, Applicants once again assert that only a print server can anticipate a print server. Since a virtual printer, particularly one that is resident on a client device, is not a print server, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection is improper for at least this additional reason.

With respect to *Yacoub*, that reference generally discloses a prior art print server and printer arrangement. However, the Office Action seems to disregard common and ordinary usage of such terms seemingly indicating that the print server of *Yacoub* somehow includes a printer and associated print mechanism and, thus, these teachings correspond to Applicants’ recited master printer. In support of this position, the Office Action indicates that Applicants’ disclosure teaches that a “master printer system 59 can be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof.” Applicants respectfully agree with this contention. However, the master print system 59 is a portion of the “master printer 35,” which is shown

as the device in FIG. 3. This relationship is also clearly shown in FIG. 6, which also indicates the various components and corresponding functionality associated with the device 35.

Applicants respectfully note that the contention in the Office Action may have incorrectly assumed that the master print system 59 was the master printer 35, in which case the contention may have been correct. However, as clearly shown in the application, Applicants have described a system in which a master printer includes a master printing system, which may be implemented in various forms – none of which comprise a print server as contended.

With respect to the pending claims, claim 1 recites:

1. A print hub system for wireless transmission of information corresponding to print tasks, comprising:
a master printer including a master printing mechanism capable of printing information corresponding to the print task and a master wireless network module adapted to wirelessly transmit information corresponding to the print task, the master printer being configured to determine an intended destination of the print task and to configure the information corresponding to the print task for wireless transmission;
a print server operative to communicate the print tasks to the master printer; and
at least one servant printer, each at least one servant printer including a printing mechanism and a servant wireless network module, the printing mechanism being adapted to print the information corresponding to the print task, the servant wireless network module being adapted to communicatively couple with the master wireless network module and receive the information corresponding to a wirelessly transmitted print task, and wherein the master printer is adapted to wirelessly transmit the information corresponding to the print task to each servant printer.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Yacoub* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Yacoub* does not teaches or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. That is, *Yacoub* does not involve a “master printer including a master printing mechanism capable of printing information corresponding to the print task,” a “print server operative to communicate the print tasks to the master printer,” and “at least one servant printer,” as

recited above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 3 – 9 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 10, that claim recites:

10. A print hub system for wireless transmission of print tasks, *wherein a print server is operative to communicate the print tasks to a master printer, the master printer including a master printing mechanism capable of printing information corresponding to the print task* and a master wireless network module adapted to wirelessly transmit information corresponding to the print task, the master printer being configured to determine an intended destination of the print task and to configure the information corresponding to the print task for wireless transmission, said system comprising:
at least one servant printer, each at least one servant printer including a printing mechanism and a servant wireless network module, the printing mechanism being adapted to print the information corresponding to the print task, the servant wireless network module being adapted to receive the information corresponding to a wirelessly transmitted print task from the print server via the master printer, each at least one servant printer lacking an ability to receive print task via other than wireless transmission.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Yacoub* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 10. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Yacoub* does not teaches or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. That is, *Yacoub* does not involve a “master printer including a master printing mechanism capable of printing information corresponding to the print task,” a “print server operative to communicate the print tasks to the master printer,” and “at least one servant printer,” as recited above in claim 10. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 13, 14, 18 and 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 10, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

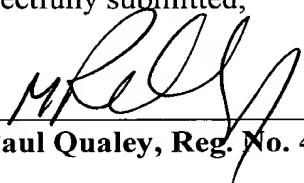
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.


Respectfully submitted,



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